

(This is not the advertisement for e toy store, but simply another oracle.)
For loneliness a hobby is the best of good company; for near-sighted sympathles it is at best a partiall cure, for the time when the sap of vitality is going down and the wrinkles spreading their claws about the eyes there is nothing which keeps up a brisk interest in life as surely as a well-cared for hobby, be it chickens or the study of art, the schooling of horses or the collecting of steins. I heard one man declare the other day that his hobby was the collecting of coins. Ho might say of rare coins, he added, for it was his experience that sill coins were rare and hard to secure. Another advantage of a hobby is that it is so easy to deedle upon a Christimas gift suitable to the man who keeps the hobby. For instance, there is a long list of charming books that it would be wise to give to the man who is fond of nature study. In Nature's Garden, by Melje is lanchan (Mr.c. Doubleday), would naturally hoad such a list; for the readers of this delightful book on botany are not obliged to find their way through a bewildering, labyrinth of technical terms, but are led instead across the green pastures of flower lore by a guide who has store, but simply another oracle.)

obliged to find their way through a obwildering, labyrinth of technical terms,
but are led instead across the green pautures of flower lore by a guilde who has
an altogether charming style of mingling
fact and fancy and legend in all of her
narratives. Some other books of this
kind are How to Know the Wild Flowers, by Mrs. Dana; Nature Study and
Life, by some one named Hodges; Birds
of Eastern North America, by Chapman;
Plants, whose author's name is, Coulter;
Our Molive Trees, by H. L. Keeler; any
or all of John burrough's writings; Trees
in Winter, by Anna O. Huntingdon, and
a charming little blography of a bird
called "Bob," by Sliney Lanier. For
any one "who likes that sort of thing,
that is the very sort of thing he likes."

THE GIFT FOR AN ARTIST.

If you are on an expedition to find a

If you are on an expedition to find a resent for an art student you should not have to search very far. There are so present for an art student you should not have to search very far. There are so many articles which simply call out to you to buy them. The International Studio Magazine is one of these, and so is L'Art et Decoration and Decoratif Vorbilder, though the German magazine is published entirely for students of design. A paint box, draperles or other ornaments for a studio; the oft-needed portfolio, a pretty, quaint costume for a model, and all the thousand and one books written about art and artists, too, might be very sure of a welcome from the wielders of the paint brush.

MISCELLANEOUS PRESENTS.

For women, old and young; for women

For women, old and young; for women ith hobbies and women without any obbies at all, handkerchiefs are always with hobbles and women without any hobbles at all, handkerchiefs are always acceptable presents. It is very rarely that any one can have too large a number or too great a variety of handkerchiefs. I did know one woman several years ago who was everstocked with those useful articles. She was a music teacher in Baltimore, and year after year the affection of her pupils used at Christmas time to take the form of handkerchiefs. Maybe they felt that she was peculiarly in need of handkerchiefs, because their efforts to make music were so conducive to tears. Photograph frames, I think rival handkerchiefs in general usefulness nowadays, when we have so many photographs to house from the dust. Another small and useful article is a clothes' hanger, which can be bought at the fancy goods counter of almost any store, very daintily covered with silk and satin pads. For the girl who likes to keep her theatrical programmes, a programme scrap-book is a restity present. The present is made by nes, a programme scrap-book i present. The present is made ing a printer put up what seems like ordinary scrap-book, with gray leaves, piling that for the binding there are stiff white cardboard backs. On the excepting that for the shiding that the state with stiff white cardboard backs. On the front face paint a couple of old Greek masks, with fluttering ribbons, or two clowns, or any other design that suggests the stage.

A shirt waist box, covered with cre-type or decorated with burnt wood work.

tenne or decorated with burnt wood work, would make an acceptable present. And \$9 would gold mounted shell barettes for clasping the hair at the back, Indian work backets, fitted up with needle, hook and emery; the new collarettes, done on coarse canvas, with colored cottons in cross stitches; muff and fan ohains, centerpleces and table covers and any sort of flower that has leaves and blossoms.

PRESENTS FOR MEN. For men there are a good many pres-ents to be found in the lewelry stores. One of the Main Street shops shows a silver mounted cigar box, with a patent

Christmas Games.

fine old Christmas toast it is,

"All joie and jollitie,
NVait on thy holiday;
True love and friendliness,
Biallow thy happiness;"

"Like laughter," because her face is keeping.

one should have a hobby to this is not the advertisement for tore, but simply another oracle.) elinese a hobby is the beat of mpany; for near-sighted sympalis at best a partial cure, for the net the sap of vitality is going of the wrinkles spreading their bout the eyes there is nothing teeps up a brisk interest in life y as a well-cared for hobby, be eas or the study of art, the study of art, the for it was his experience that were rare and hard to secure, re advantage of a hobby is that easy to deelde upon a Christmas able to the man who is fond of nature in Nature's Garden, by Meltje In Mills (For the readers of Enfrell book on botany are not to find their way through a be
discovered with the family coat of arms of the study of art, the gradient of the man for whom it was intended. To have a book plate designed especially for have a book plate desi with great complaisance whenever he went to the theatre or a reception, or

a dinner.

The baby-blue ribbons fluttered gayely in the breeze, and the monogram showed up resplendently if his overcoat was a little open. It had quite the effect of King Edward's Order of the Garter, or something of that sort. The other men dressed beside him like crows with a yellow breasted wheat-bird. But one night—it was very sad—some one told him that atter all the present was not intended as a dress suit protection to be worn over the shirt front. It was ment ot be used under the shirt front to prevent its crushing in. He looken then utterly crostfallen as he were thinking of himself, "all my swans are geese," or "I never loved a tree or flower," and so on. But after a while he was able to enjoy the joke of the thing as much as the rest of the household.

The antique stere ought to be a happy The baby-blue ribbons fluttered gayely

The antique store ought to be a happy hunting ground for the Christmas shop-per here as they are in New York. I believe that one of the best we have is across the river in Manchester.

helleve that one of the best we have is across the river in Manchester.

And the book stores are especially attractive this year. A Kohlmoor among the publications which they show is "Mother's Days." a set of six colored pictures by Jessle Wilcox Smith. One of Howard Pyle's former class of students, which included Elizabeth Shippen Green, Annie Whelan Betts, Sarah S. Stilwell, the children's artist, and, I believe Charlotte Harding, too, Miss Smith has the bold drawing of the great illustrator, her teacher, with an added touch of poetic grace. At least, so it seems to me. In Bed Time, one of the "Mother's Days" series, the figure of the mother as she comes up the stairway with a little sleeping girl in her arms, is sithuetted against a window, through which shines a warngirl in her arms, is silhouetted against a window, through which shines a warning daffodli light. You see the brooding mother love in the woman's face, and in some way you know how the child had insisted that she was not a bit sleepy until utter weariness weighed down her eyelids and quieted the little hands and feet that had been so busy all day long, and she fell asleep on the sofa in the library, so that she had to be lifted up to bed. For all this set of her pictures, Miss Smith gives those little idioms of childish positions which are so fascinating in real life. in real life,

The Deserted Village which was The Descried Village which was illustrated last year by Edwin A. Abboy for Harper Brothers, is another of the most choice of the Christmas publications, es it represents a marriage of real literature and fine art in illustrating. Abboy is an illustrator who nearly always illustrates.

Miles Standish's Courtship appears this was to reals attire. The colored pictures

year in gain attire. The colored pictures and the marginal decorations show some of Howard Chandler Christy's best work of Howard Chandler Christy's best work.
That Old Sweetheart of Mine, the Riley
Christy book of last year, is one of the
daintest pieces of book making on the
booksellers shelves.
Through the Looking Glass, with pictures by Peter Newell, is one of the few
books whose illustrations are as delightful as fix text.

ful as its text.

The Hunting of the Snark, prepared by

the same author and illustrated, is one of the good things of the year, too, but somehow the drawings are too much like the apparations of nightmare ELOISE BRUCE.

sunshine. "Like crying." because laughter and crying are akin.
"Like ice-cream," because she is so

dainty.
"Like a clock," because she tells the hour of the evening when her sweet-heart ought to go home.

For the elders, after the Christmas turkey and the plum pudding have been discussed, there is pleasant intercourse and interchange of thoughts prompted by the gentle spirit which rules the hour.

The merry youngsters as their inclinations prompt, turn to Christmas games and customs which have prevailed at this season since lads have been lads and lassies their sweethearts,
Tennyson alludes to old English Christmas games when he says:
"Charades and riddles as at Christmas here and "What's My Thought" and "When and Where and How?"
"What s My Thought" is a pretty conceit played after this wise: A person puts it in motion by asking "What's my thought like?" He is answered by players in turn: "Like a carpet;" a plano, "a troe," "a road," "a church," "haughter," "crying," "ice-cream," "a clock,"
The questioner then announces: "My thought was Miss Dougias, will you tell me why she is like a carpet;" "Then, the other responses follow. "She is like a plano, because her hone are harmonious."

"Like a proad, because she is often clothed in green."

"Like a caurch, because she is raveled."
"Like a church, because she is raveled."
"Like laughter," because her face is "retained to curious Japanese of "little spring."—Good House-

## DAILY MENU DECEMBER 14TH.

The Woman's Page, now that Christhas is near, invites the women of Rich mond to join in a search, the nature of which is indicated below.

STUDY OF NATIONS

PRIZE CONTEST IN

The most successful finder who for-The most successful finder who forwards the result of her search to The Times-Dispatch so that it may be received and read Thursday, December 17th, will receive a Christmas gift, with the compliments of the Page. Should two correct answers be received, two gilts will be awarded.

Remember the contest closes Thursday.

A Search for Nations.

1. The nation politicians would like to 2. The one that a King is certain to

repent.

16. The one that for teachers is certainly meant.

17. The nation for those who darkness would shun.

18. The one we all reach when our jour-

ney is done, 19. The nation for him who the highest

lean.

22. The one where amazement and fright may be seen.

23. The nation where the fortune teller's at home. er's at home. 24. And the nation to which I now have

Jewels in Heraldry.

Jewels in Heraldry.

Jewels in heraldry represent colors. The topaz represents or-gold-or the planet Sol.

The pearl or crystal represents argent—silver-or the planet Luna.

The ruby represents gules-red-or the planet Mars.

The sapphire represents azure-blue-or the planet Jupiter.

The diamond represents sable-black-or the planet Saturn.

The enerald represents vert-green-or the planet Venus.

The amethyst represent purpure-purple-or the planet Mercury.

Breakfast.

Spanish Mackerel, brolled and garnished with parsley and sliced lemon. Plain Omelet. French Rolls. Flannel Cakes. Coffee

FRENCH ROLLS.

Sift one pound of flour and rub into it two ounces of butter. Bent two eggs very light; add one tablespoonful of strong yeast; make into a stiff dough with milk,

yeast; make into a stiff dough with milk, adding one teaspoonful of salt.

Cover the dough and set it near the fire to rise, it should be light in an hour. Place on the moulding board, and divide into small rolls or round cakes. Lay those in a baking pan and bake in a quick

Dinner.

Cream Tomato Soup,
Boiled Sheepshead, Egg Sauce.
Porterhouse Steak.
Creamed Pointoes. Baked Tomatoes.
Salsify, Spinach. Rice Meringue Pudding.

Coffee.
RICE MERINGUE PUDDING.
Boll a half a tea cup of rice in a quart
of milk until perfectly tender. Mash
smooth, sweeton and flavor to taste, then

Separate the yolks and whites of three Separate the yolks and whites of three eggs. Beat the yolks and add them to the rice and milk. If preferred, add a handful of stoned raisins. Four into a pudding dish and bake, Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff meringue, with half a pound of pulverized sugar. Flavor with temon or vanilla, spread in an even layer over the pudding and brown in a very gulck oven.

Supper. Creamed Oysters. Celery Salad.

Beaten Biscuit. Muffins.

Canned Peaches. Whipped Cream.

Chocolate. CREAME DOYSTERS.

One quart of cysters, one-half pint of milk, one-half pint of cyster liquor, one tablespoonful of butter, creamed with two tablespoonfuls of flour.

Make the cream by mixing the above ingredients in a saucepan. As soon as they come to a boil, drop in the cysters and allow them to cook ten minutes.

Serve het on this rounds of lightly hot, on thin rounds of lightly browned toast

IBABELLA THOMPSON.

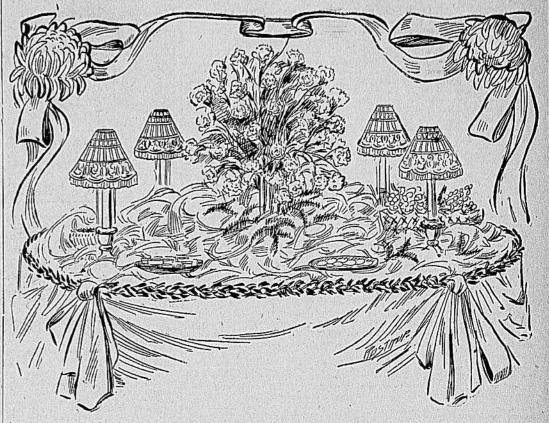
The Wife of To-day. Oh, don't you remember the girl you once

In the Kingdom of Love long ago? Ah, surely her sweet face is haunting you As when first it enraptured you so! How happy you were in those summery

days
With that dear little girl by your side.
Who listened to all of your fond words of When the promised she would be your bride.

And well you remember how happy, you

Like a flower of radiant huel And wasn't life joyous and roseate then,



# IN GREEN AND WHITE.

An artistic example of taste in table decoration by the hostess of a handsome Richmond entertainment during the week. The centerpiece is of white carnations and mignonette, the color scheme in green and white.

And sufficient the fulness thereof, In those dreamy days so long ago when You sojourned in the Kingdom of Love?

Ah, yes, you remember those bright days of old. And you think of the girl that you met, And back through the years that have over you rolled Comes that memory haunting you yet. But, pray, do not dwell in the past ever-more.

While the present is gliding away, For, husband, remember that sweet girl of yore

Of that rapturous passion aglow? se summery days have long vanished and gone

Is the true, loving wife of to-day!

And do you e'er love her as tenderly still
As you did in the long, long ago.
When she was a girl and your heart felt
the thrill

In the past's silent vistas away But the love of that maiden still lives on

In the heart of the wife of to-day!
—Sidney Warren Mase.

# HOLIDAY GOWNS

Should Harmonize With Christmas Colors in Red and Green.

Perhaps one reason why white is so universally worn at Christmas balls, receptions and teas is because it contrasts so well with the holly and mistletoe, which are the rule in decoration during the holiday season.

All thin and clinging materials in white have displayed the stiffer and less graceful brocade and taffota. Crepe de chines, shirred and accordion-plaited, trimmed with lace or chiffon, are first favorites, and are pretty enough to justify the choice. The prettiness is all the more pronounced when the wearer stands against a background of winter greenery and has a spray of holly berries and leaves, making a coronal for glossy braids of hair.

ORGANDY FOR BUDS.

As white is the Christmas gown de rigeur, it is well that there are so many varieties of white fabrics to choose from. The bud in white organdy is so altogether captivating and so daintily pure and fresh, and nothing is inclined to feel organdy, and nothing else should always clothe the fairness of buds.

A green tulle sash and a bouquet of American Boauties seem the only adjuncts necessary to complete the picture. One argument in favor of organdy is the ease with which it takes on becoming shapes under the manipulation of clever and skilful fingers. The girl who has a few hours of leisure in the evening and few hours of leisure in the evening and knows the use of a sewing machine can put together a holiday gown which will

be vastly becoming and wonderfully WHITE VOILE

WHITE VOILE.

Voile is another of the favorite materials this season. It is trimmed with hand embroidered, lace and applique by preference, and is specially adapted for afternoon teas and receptions. Some of the most elegant voiles are made up for the holiday with chenille embroidery, in white silk, and with not and point de'sprit yokes and sleeves, sudded with pearls. White cloth gowns divide honors with white voile and white canvas. The cloth in this instance has no reference to the tailored garment. It is a gorgeous affair, having frequently a profusion of lace, mingled with fur, medallons of lace in plush or wide collars and cuffs of Irish point.

Irish point.
INDIA AND CHINA SILKS. Especially becoming to youthful slenderness are white India and China silk goods. These to be pretty, should be fussed, they do not incline well to plainness. Shirings,

do not incline well to plainness. Shirings, accordion-plaitings, ruchings of chiffon and tucks, are the aids most frequently depended upon, and those which produce most satisfactory effects.

GREEN AND RED.

So much for white. When the bud's complexion is what it should be, she may have her holiday attre in green, pale tints of this color in crope de chine or chiffon being the prettiest. Or should she incline to bright colors, there is red in overy shade, and in the most desirable materials.

Yot it seems that the Christmas maiden under the mistietce is at her best in snowy draperies, which are the natural compliment of her own sweet purity.

### FURNITURE MOTTOES ARE NOW IN VOGUE

A motto or a legend for every bit of

A motto or a legona for every bit of furniture is now quite allowable. Here are a few which may serve a good turn for furniture, bric-a-brae, wall or ceiling:
"Enter my gates, sit thee down and welcome," may be inscribed over a hall door; or the equally appropriate lines, "Bear welcome in your eye, your hand, your tonguo"; or, "Good company, good welcome."

welcome."

Over a cabinet for stationery is the legend, "At your fingers' end," and "A smattering of odds and ends" appears upon a cabinet for brie-a-brac. "Here's rosemary: that's for remembrance," marks a case of souvenirs.

If the owner of the library is something of a cynic, these lines from Moore may be used:

"My only books."

be used:
"My only books
"Vere woman's looks,

And folly's all they taught me."
The following lines may appeal to an-

The following lines may appear to another's taste:
"If one short volume could comprise,
All that was witty, learned and wise,
How would it be esteemed and read?"
The lines, "Sequestered nooks and all
the sweet serenity of books," is still another apt quotation.
Upon the frame of a mirror nothing
can be more suitable than "Be to my virtues very kind, and to my faults a little
blind."
Over a clock may be painted the legend:

Over a clock may be painted the legend:
"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts

Over a ciock may be arrs; in thoughts not breaths.
In feelings; not in figures on a dial."

For a rack for beer steins and Uncle Tobys are the lines. "Bring hither of mighty ale a big quart," while a rack or stand for pipes and tobacco can be decorated with the lines from "Othello," "O thou weed, who are so lovely fair and smell'st so sweet." There is also the line, "Whose smoke like incense doth perfume," or "The sum of earthly bills," may find an echo in many a mind.

"A right welcome sound" is inscribed upon a gong. For a hand-painted china tea-tray, in addition to the decoration of llowers, are the lines, "Be mistress of thyself, though China fall."

Nor must the corner where golf sticks and archery implements are kept be forgotten.

A golf bag may be embrazoned with: "Time-honored golf, I heard it whispered

That he who could not play was held r dunce."
"Well won is well shot," may do for the corner where the archery outfit is kept.

MISTRESS MARY.

Neglected "Furnishings." The contrast was never drawn more sharply than between the simplicity of some life in the Orient and the complex-

Ity of home life and society in the Occident. How charming the insight into the homes of Japan! How sensible so end their customs in comparison with the in even quite modest over pretentious, in the comparison of the comparison daily thought and action that binds the occupants into true home family—a sanctum of real life, the maker and maintainer of character, the source of happiness.

tum of real life, the maker and maintainer of character, the source of happiness.

The best "furnishings," therefore, are those graces of manner and kindness of heart, saneness of view and charity of thought, above all sincerity, love morality and fact, that unconsciously weld individuals into one harmonious family. Yet to avail much, these ethical qualities must be accompanied, especially in the wife and mother, by a mastery of the practical datalis of good housekeening. But is not there dauger of too much attention to the latter and too little to the former? Are we not teaching curgirs how to dress her body and the house, how to care for both without sufficiently striving to develop those indefinable graces of mind and deed imperfectly referred to above?

Genuine culture should accompany practical training—the two are really inclusively in the culture we wish to express. By genuine culture we here mean neither supericial accomplishments nor great tearning, but rather that combination of qualities which leads one to do as he would be done by, or which makes Nature's triumph—

"A perfect woman nobly planned,"—Good Housekoeling.

Household Hints.

Household Hints.

To make custards successfully, cook the soft custards in a double boiler over hot, not boiling water, and silv constantly. The custards to be baked should be set into a second dish half filled with warm water.

A good general rule to remember in the use of gelatine in cold water, then to dissolve in boiling water.

Neglect of either part of the process will cause trouble in making jellies.

Croton bugs may be kept at a respect-ful distance by scattering once a week, in crevices and corners, a powder made of burned eggshells. For an hour or two the odor will not be exactly delicate, but it will serve its purpose in routing the

In buying dress goods always add a yard or two. Not only is the additional material desirable in case of accident or for thrifty remodelling, but when in process of time the dress passes to some less fortunate person, that piece of goods makes all the difference in the usefulness of the eff to her. of the gift to her.



Showing a fashionable bear set, consisting of long boa and muff. A glimpse of very smart cape-sleeved coat brown-mixed zibeline is also given.

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